l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

other places, and the ſecond by boiling ſea water into ſalt; but the troubleſome diſtant carriage of the iron, and the boiling of the ſalt, are attended with ſuch expence and difficulty, that they are both ſold at a moſt intolerable price. One cannot buy a common ax under two rubles, and a pound of ſalt coſts four rubles.

CHAP. II.

Of the VOLCANO's *or* BURNING MOUNTAINS.

THERE are three burning mountains in *Kamtſchatka*, the *Awachinſky*, the *Tulbatchinſky*, and the *Kamtſchatka*.

The *Awachinſky* mountain ſtands upon the north ſide of the bay of *Awatſcha*, at a good diſtance indeed, but its bottom reaches to the very bay; and all the high mountains, near one half of their height, are made up, as it were, of rows of hills ſet one upon another, and the top they call the *Shatſe*, or tent, which is always naked, but the lower parts are generally covered with wood.

Theſe mountains for many years throw out a continual ſmoke, but flame only at times. The moſt terrible fire happened, as the *Kamtſchadales* ſay, in the ſummer of the year 1737; but this laſted no longer than 24 hours, and concluded by throwing out a vaſt cloud of aſhes, which covered the adjacent parts the depth of a verſhoke *.

* A verſhoke is the $\frac{1}{16}$ of the *Ruſſian* arſhin, which contains 27 inches.

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

137 rows upon the ſtalk; the lower row having three leaves, and the upper four, placed croſsways: the form of the leaves is oval. Sometimes above the ſecond row one leaf grows juſt under the flower. Upon the uppermoſt part of the ſtalk grows one dark cherry-coloured flower, rarely two, ſomething leſs than that of the common lilly; and this is divided into ſix equal parts. The pointal in the center of the flower is triangular, at the top flat, and in three different cells contains flat reddiſh ſeeds. Round the pointal are ſix white ſtamina with yellow heads. Its root, which is properly the ſaranne, is about the bigneſs of a root of garlick, made up of many little cloves, whence it acquires a round form. It bloſſoms in *June*, at which time one can ſee no other flower over the whole fields.

222 252 262 435 The natives of *Kamtſchatka*, and the wives of the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks, dig up the roots in the harveſt, or take them out of the neſts of the field-n[illegible]y† them in the ſun, and ſell them for five or ſix rubles the pood. The ſaranne half boiled, and beat up with brambleberries, cranberries, or ſuch other of this kind, makes one of the moſt agreeable confections, being of a ſharp ſweetneſs; and if one had enough for every day's uſe, the want of bread would be tolerably 137 well ſupplied. Mr. *Steller* reckons five ſpecies of this plant: 1ſt. the kimtchiga, which grows near *Tegbil* and *Hariouſkovoy*, in appearance like a large ſugar-pea, and if boiled taſtes much the ſame; but neither he nor I ever ſaw this plant in bloſſom: 2dly, the round ſaranne, which I have deſcribed above: 3dly, ovſenka *, which grows every where in *Siberia*, being roots of red lillies, whoſe flowers are all turned up in curls; the bulb is compoſed of an infinite number of ſmall cloves: 4thly, titichpa,

* Lilium radice tunicata, foliis ſparſis, floribus reflexis, corollis revolutis. GMEL. flor. Sib.

† Defect in Original. Sentence probably reads: "field-mice to dry?"

which

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

The ſables of *Kamtſchatka* excel all other ſables of *Siberia*, both in largeneſs, thickneſs of hair, and brightneſs; but in point of blackneſs they do not come up to thoſe of *Olekmine* and *Vitime*: however their other properties are ſo valuable, that the *Kamtſchatka* ſables have by much the preference; and in *China*, where they know how to improve the colour, fetch ſo great a price that few of them are brought into *Ruſſia*. The ſables of *Tegbil* and *Oukine* are moſt eſteemed, and are ſometimes ſold for thirty rubles a pair. Mr. *Steller* ſays, that the worſt are hunted about the *Lopatka* and *Kurilſkoy* ſeas. It often happens that the worſt kind of ſables ſhall have their tails ſo black and thick haired, that they will ſell dearer than any other.

Before the conqueſt of *Kamtſchatka* there was ſo great a plenty of ſables that one hunter would kill ſeventy or eighty in a year; and that not for the ſake of the furr, but the fleſh, which they eſteem very delicious. The inhabitants at that time willingly agreed to pay their tribute in ſables; and were glad to receive a knife for eight, and an ax for eighteen. Some merchants have gained in one year by furrs only more than thirty thouſand rubles. The ſables are ſtill in much greater plenty here than in any other country, as is obſerved by every one who has been upon the ſpot, and compared their tracts upon the ſnow with what are ſeen either upon the rivers *Lena* or *Beloy*, and this even in the neighbourhood of the forts. And if the people of *Kamtſchatka* were as induſtrious in hunting as thoſe about the *Lena*, they could ſell a great many more than they; but ſuch is their natural lazineſs, that they never kill more than what they muſt pay in tribute, and what will pay their debts. They look upon him as an extraordinary good hunter that kills ſix or ſeven ſables in a winter; and ſeveral are not able to furniſh their tribute furrs, but muſt borrow either from the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks, or ſome more induſtrious hunter of

 their

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

Iſlands of *America*. When they eat, they ſit upon their hind legs like a ſquirrel, and hold their food, which is roots, berries, and cedar nuts, with their fore feet. They are pretty to look at, and whiſtle ſurpriſingly loud. No body thinks 1his while to hunt ermines *, weaſels †, or common marmottas ‡, unleſs by chance they meet with them; ſo that one cannot reckon ermines amongſt the furrs of *Kamtſchatka*. But there is a creature of the weaſel kind, called the glutton ‖, whoſe furr is ſo greatly eſteemed above all others, that when they would deſcribe a man moſt richly attired, they ſay that he is cloathed with the furr of the glutton. The women of *Kamtſchatka* dreſs their hair with the white paws of this animal, and reckon them a very great ornament. However, the *Kamtſchadales* kill ſo few of them, that they not only have not enough for exportation, but even import ſome from *Jakutſki* at a very great price. They put the greater value upon the furr of the glutton the whiter and yellower it is, although every where elſe this ſort is deſpiſed: nay, they eſteem it ſo much, that they ſay the heavenly beings wear no other garments than of this furr; nor can they make their wives or miſtreſſes a greater preſent than of one of theſe ſkins, which was formerly ſold for thirty, and even ſixty rubles; and for the two paws which the women wear in their hair, they ſometimes give one, and ſometimes two ſea beavers. The greateſt number of theſe gluttons is found near *Karaga*, *Andirſka*, and *Kolima*. They have a ſurpriſing dexte-

* Ermineum majus. GMEL.
† Ermineum minor. Ejuſdem.
‡ Marmotta vulgaris. Ejuſdem.
‖ Muſtela rufo-fuſca, medio dorſi nigro. LINN.

O2

1 [Original torn. Probably "it worth" rity

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

they came to be Chriſtians they were with difficulty prevailed upon to quit this dreſs for one more decent: however, at preſent round the *Ruſs* ſettlements all is intirely changed, the women wearing ſhirts, ruffles, waiſtcoats, caps and ribbands; which change nobody now complains of, except the very old people. The women do all their work in mittins: they formerly never waſhed their faces, but now they uſe both white and red paint; for white paint they make uſe of a rotten wood, and for red a ſea plant *, which they boil in ſeals' fat, and rubbing their cheeks with it make them very red. They dreſs moſt in the winter time, eſpecially when they either receive or pay viſits.

The common cloaths for a *Kamtſchadale* and his family will not coſt him leſs than an hundred rubles, for the coarſeſt worſted ſtockings, which coſt in *Ruſſia* 20 kopeeks, cannot be bought here for leſs than a ruble; and all other things are ſold in the ſame proportion. The *Kuriles* are more able to buy good cloaths than the *Kamtſchadales*, for they can purchaſe for one ſea beaver as much as the *Kamtſchadales* can for twenty foxes, and one beaver coſts the *Kuriles* no more trouble than five foxes do the *Kamtſchadales*; for he muſt be a good hunter who catches more than ten foxes in the winter, and a *Kurili* thinks himſelf unlucky if he doth not catch three beavers in the ſeaſon; beſides which great numbers are thrown upon the ſhore by ſtorms,

* Fucus marinus abietis forma. Pinus maritima, ſeu fucus teres. Dodd. Append. 326. Ray Linn.

CHAP.

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

ſide with their feet hanging down; and it would be looked upon as a diſgrace for any one to ſit in the ſledge, or to make uſe of any perſon to drive them, no body doing this but the women.

A ſet of four good dogs will coſt in *Kamtſchatka* 15 rubles, and with their harneſs complete come to near 20.

From the make of their ſledges may be ſeen how difficult it is to travel upon them; for a man is obliged to keep the exacteſt balance, otherwiſe he is liable, from the height and narrowneſs of them, to be overturned. In a rugged road this would be very dangerous, as the dogs never ſtop 'till they come to ſome houſe, or are entangled by ſomething upon the road; for they have this fault, that in going down ſteep hills they run with all their force, and are ſcarcely to be kept in: for which reaſon, in deſcending any great declivity they unyoke all the dogs except one, and lead them ſoftly down the hill. They likewiſe walk up hills; for it is as much as the dogs can do to drag up the ſledge empty. The narta will carry, beſides the proviſions for the dogs and the driver, about five poods. With this load, upon a tolerable road, they can travel about 30 verſts a day; and without any load, in the ſpring when the ſnow is hardened, and upon fliders made of bone, they can travel 150 verſts. After a deep ſnow there is no travelling with dogs 'till a road be made, which is effected by a man going before upon ſnow-ſhoes, whom they call *brodovſhika*.

The ſnow-ſhoes are made of two thin boards, ſeparated in the middle, and bound together at the ends; the fore part is bent a little upwards. They are bound together with thongs, and a place made to ſlip in the foot, which they likewiſe tie with thongs. The brodovſhika having one of theſe ſhoes upon each foot leaves the dogs and ſledge, and going on, clears the road for ſome way; then returning leads forwards the dogs and ſledge ſo far as the road is made; a method which he muſt continue 'till

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

273 437 in like manner, all the profits of their knavery.

273 435 439 I ſhall terminate the article of commerce by adding, that the perſons who deal moſt in wholeſale, are merely agents of the merchants of Totma, Vologda, Grand Uſtiug, and different towns of Siberia, or the factors of other opulent traders, who extend even to this diſtant country their commercial ſpeculations.

All the wares and proviſions, which neceſſity obliges them to purchaſe from the magazines, are ſold exceſſively dear, and at about ten times the current price at Moſcow. A *vedro** of French brandy coſts eighty roubles†. The merchants are al-

* A Ruſſian meaſure containing from fifteen to twenty quarts.

† Eighteen pounds ſterling, eſtimating the rouble at four ſhillings and ſixpence.

lowed

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

273 lowed to traffic in this article; but the
435 brandy, diſtilled from corn, which is brought
439 from Okotſk, and that produced by the
177 country, which is diſtilled from the *flat-kaia-trava*, or ſweet herb, are ſold, upon government account, at forty one roubles ninety-ſix kopecks* the vedro. They can be ſold only in the *kabacs*, or public houſes, opened for that purpoſe. At Okotſk, the price of brandy diſtilled from corn is no more than eighteen roubles the vedro; ſo that the expence of freight is charged at twenty-three roubles ninety-ſix kopecks, which appears exorbitant, and enables us to form ſome judgment of the accruing profit.

The reſt of the merchandize conſiſts of nankins and other China ſtuffs, together with various commodities of Ruſſian and foreign manufacture, as ribands, handker-

* Nine pounds nine ſhillings.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

224 438 443 452 563 for the skins varies very much if these be sold separately. But generally the season's catch is disposed of *en masse*, and a fixed price paid per head, whether good, bad, or indifferent. By far the greater part of the trade lies in the hands of the individual I have alluded to under his title of the King of Kamschatka. That he was by no means beloved of his subjects was abundantly evident, but his power was so great that but few were able, even if they dared, to shake off the hold he had upon them. As the owner of what was, practically, the only store in Petropaulovsky, the natives became easily indebted to him, their account for goods supplied being invariably in excess of the amount allowed for the furs brought for disposal. They are thus, we were informed, obliged to bring the catch of the following season to the same market, where, owing to the absence of competition, the prices are by no means high. If the corresponding profit upon the flour, cloth, and other goods sold be taken into consideration, it will be seen that, with a little capital and an elastic conscience, a fur-trader in Kamschatka ought not to do badly.

435 563 In St. Petersburg the price of a single sable-skin ranges from £2 to £25. In Kamschatka the wretched peasant, living upon half-rotten fish and exposed to the rigours of a climate which, in its severity, surpasses that of almost every inhabited region of the world, receives, nominally, an average of sixteen roubles[1] per skin. In reality, as I have stated, he has to take out this value in 273 goods. He is wise if he does so, and can keep clear of the brandy, 435 which, in spite of the law which forbids its sale anywhere but R in Petropaulovsky, has proved the ruin of so many of his country- 177 men.

.27 The price of other skins is generally settled individually. A fairly good bear's skin fetches about three or four roubles. It is only the very finest and largest that will bring as much as seven roubles. A river otter, if in good condition, is valued at the latter

[1] The Russian paper rouble is worth nearly half-a-crown; the silver rouble about three shillings and sixpence.

[see page 74--analyst]

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

435 price, but this animal does not exist in any numbers in the peninsula. The most valuable skin of all is that of the sea-otter (*Enhydra lutris*), which is becoming rarer year by year. A good pelt of this animal will bring even the native hunter as much as a hundred roubles, while in the European market a perfect one has been known to realise £120!

133 On the morning of August 22d we came for the first time to a
137 *tûndra* of considerable size. After the gloom of the birch-forest these vast stretches of level ground have a most exhilarating effect. The feeling of oppressive stillness which but an hour or two before seemed to weigh upon us like a nightmare, disappeared as if by magic, and pushing our horses into an easy canter, we pursued our way with a sense of freedom that is rarely or never felt except by those who ride where fancy leads them over the level surface of an uncultivated plain. The melancholy, the *niedergeschlagenheit* of Kamschatka, of which Kittlitz gives such a long description in his account of the country, I confess I never felt: the converse—a purely physical feeling of delight in mere existence—we often experienced, and a good rollicking drinking song and a loose rein seemed a necessity in order to let off our stock of superabundant spirits. Long wastes of almost orange-coloured grass stretched away nearly to the horizon, only broken here and there by a still pool, or flecked by little tufts of snowy cotton-grass. Our
132 course—for we were on what a native would doubtless call the
487 "high road" to Narchiki—was marked out by long poles, some fifteen or twenty feet in height, which in winter serve to guide the traveller over the dreary wastes of snow. In the forest another method is adopted. The trees are "blazed" by a vertical slit cut in the bark by the hunter's axe. This gapes with the growth of the tree and forms a conspicuous oval mark, ten or twelve feet above the ground—a height which forcibly impresses upon the mind the depth of the winter snow. Other evidences which told us that the warm sun beneath which we were travelling was an affair of days, not weeks, were close at hand, for the snow lay in thick patches

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

157 dences for the balagans or places which they use
221 for drying their fish. Thus the summer is employed
177 in preparing food against the winter, which latter is taken up in the chase. Beyond this the Kamtchatdale is still the same lazy, drunken, servile animal as formerly. Their ancient language is not forgotten, but is so far out of use that there are few who do not speak Russian. Most of the aborigines are baptized, and may be said to live as the Russians do. The number of real Kamtchatdales who retain their ancient usages is small. They reside on the northern coasts beyond Tygil and Nishney Kamtchatsk. Hospitality is the most striking feature in their character; but they are also distinguished by their strict adherence to truth, and their honesty is proverbial. Without being forward to complain of ill-treatment, they will fearlessly recount it when
622 questioned. They are in part governed by their
631 own Toions or Chiefs, but an annual visit is made
R to each village by the Ispravnick or Chief Judge,
177 as well for the purpose of collecting sables as of
.63 administering justice.

Their dress is the same as formerly, that for the
177 winter season being made of the skins of beasts;
291 but in summer they wear nankeens, and at present
435 there is hardly a Kamtchatdale who does not wear a shirt. The women have also adopted the Russian head-dress, the articles for which are procured
181 from the pedlers at a most exorbitant rate. It is sur-
435 prising that this people who have now been feeling

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

181 the extreme of oppression from neglect and mal-
435 administration, for one hundred and twenty years, should not have become wiser and more economical in their habits; on the contrary, one might suppose they were a people but yesterday discovered. They will part with the most valuable furs for a trifling article, or a glass of spirits.

177 I need say nothing of their superstitions, as they
793 are nearly at an end. They now place as much re-
756 liance upon the efforts of the priests, as they formerly did on their shamanes, with this difference only, that to the latter they give many furs, while to the former they only gave a hearty meal.

183 Of laws they have but few of their own, their
554 motto being something like that of the Chinese,
692 "to return evil for evil, and good for good." At
R present they await the arrival of the Chief, of an
177 Officer, or of a Commissary, with a great deal of
.69 ceremony, giving him the best lodging, and acknowledging, if I may so say, his supremacy. Formerly, it appears, they lived in a perfect state of equality and independence of each other, age and expertness in hunting alone being held in estimation or respect.

177 The Kamtchatdales are now supplied with culi-
181 nary utensils and every thing they can require by the Russians; and as they live exactly in the same manner, and in the same description of houses with the latter, I need only refer my readers to an account of a Russian village; in their outward ap-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

273 Another great cause of this ravage in population
435 has arisen from the introduction of spirits: a Kamt-
563 chatdale will sell his last sable or fox for a glass
733 of it, though he is not physically strong enough to drink any thing of the kind. When it is considered that sixteen thousand bottles of this trash are consumed in the short period of three or four months by six or seven hundred people, we may well feel pity and surprise—pity for the poor women and children, and surprise at the means of getting either the money or sables. Such a quantity of spirit ought to sell for fifty thousand roubles, which is one hundred per cent. upon the price at Okotsk, but it is in reality sold for twice that sum. When it is recollected that officers, soldiers, sailors, merchants, and priests travel round the Peninsula for the purposes of trade, it will be less wonderful when I assert that each bottle of spirits sold to the Kamtchatdales, produces the value of ten and twelve shillings. Now allowing half the quantity imported (eight thousand bottles) to be consumed by the aborigines, this would produce from eighty to one hundred thousand roubles, while the cost is, in Okotsk, only twenty-five thousand. I have seen a bottle of spirits sold for a sable, and afterwards, when the party was drunk, a bottle of adulterated liquor has fetched the same price: in short, I have seen three and even four sables given for two bottles of spirits.

Allowing seven hundred and fifty families of the

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

273
435
733

Koriaks and Kamtchatdales, which is five to each family, and that half the quantity of imported spirit is consumed by them, it will appear that each family consumes at least twelve bottles in four months. By this plan the poor purchaser is drunk for days together, and for the rest of the year can get nothing to cheer him under his depression. The cost of that spirit to the Kamtchatdales is one hundred and fifty or two hundred roubles, a prodigious sum for a poor family to expend upon an article so pernicious in its moral and physical effects. Such a sum of money in Kamtchatka would produce near six or eight hundred pounds weight of flour; enough to support a small family during a whole year: or, such a sum would enable them to purchase proper clothing, culinary utensils, nets, twine, tobacco, axes, and knives. The evil of these grog-shops is carried to so ruinous an extent, that the children of the natives are left for three and four days without any food, save yukola, dried fish, doled out to them one or twice within that time. I have known instances of mothers and children being left without any means of support, in consequence of the retailing of such trash being allowed. The yukola and the bark of trees is, in such cases, almost the only nourishment the women and children can procure for several days. If they happen to be possessed of a cow, they are considered very fortunate. It needs little philosophy to prove that it is only by taking care of the rising

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

273 generation that the stock itself can be preserved,
435 which will not long be possible, if spirit continue
563 to be transported and retailed out as it now is.—
R While making these reflections in England, I am
177 aware that the Russian Government have desisted
.27 from this trade, but this is only the worse for the Kamtchatdales, inasmuch as the pedlers take an extra quantity, and demand a most exorbitant price for a spirit infinitely inferior.

651 The abuses arising from the collection of the
661 yasack are most cruel. The yasack itself is incon-
R siderable, but from the arbitrary manner in which
177 it is collected, it is rendered odious and oppressive.
.65 The tribute is levied in kind at any low or capricious valuation, and it has not unfrequently happened that the Toion of a village, who does not properly compliment the Chief or other officer, upon the annual visit, has so small a price put upon his furs, in payment of their tribute, that they sustain a loss of two, three, and even four hundred per cent. I have seen sables valued at half-a-crown for which the merchants present would have given twelve shillings. Independent of the yasack, each Kamtchatdale has to pay seventy copecs, or seven pence, as a sort of capitation or poll-tax, upon failure of which the Ispravnick may have recourse to the most arbitrary and unjust measures. Any property may be seized and sold on the moment, such as axes, knives, nets, guns, kettles, or the clothing of the family; and it has often happened that a

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

651 sum of money to pay travelling expenses, it seems
661 very strange that such money is not paid to these
563 poor people. As little can I understand why a post
R should travel gratis: surely the poorest and most
177 distant part of the Russian empire, should not be
.66 oppressed in such a manner. It is true, the sum paid by the government to officers when travelling is small, as well as that paid to the postillion when in charge of the post; but small as it is in itself, it would be acceptable to those to whom it would appear much. As to officers' travelling, for which there is no public necessity, they can at best but reap the advantages belonging to the fair trader, who is not inconsiderably taxed. I have heard an officer of high rank assert, that every voyage from Kamtchatka to Okotsk and back again, was worth ten thousand roubles, or five hundred pounds; and I believe he spoke the truth.

661 With respect to the pedlers, here denominated
183 merchants, they in truth ought to be taxed severe-
435 ly, as well in regard to the goods they bring as
441 the price at which they are sold, the articles being
563 such as are of light burthen, or will return the greatest profit. The ignorance of the aborigines is such, and their thoughtlessness of the future so great, that they prefer present luxuries to future
661 necessities. The quantity of articles hawked about
437 by the merchants consists of tobacco, spirits, silks,
439 tea, sugar, nankeen, and cotton handkerchiefs.
441 Every Kamtchatdale keeps open house, and upon
563 the arrival of a Russian his door is held open, the